

Development of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan for RPM Plus Ethiopia, July 18 – 25, 2006 Trip Report

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About RPM Plus

The Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) Program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (cooperative agreement number HRN-A-00-00-00016-00), works in more than 20 developing countries to provide technical assistance to strengthen drug and health commodity management systems. The program offers technical guidance and assists in strategy development and program implementation both in improving the availability of health commodities—pharmaceuticals, vaccines, supplies, and basic medical equipment—of assured quality for maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, and family planning and in promoting the appropriate use of health commodities in the public and private sectors.

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ACRONYMS

ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
COP	Country Operational Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MERP	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
RPM Plus	Rational Pharmaceutical Management Project
SMS	Strategic Monitoring System
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

BACKGROUND

Management Sciences for Health (MSH)/Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) Project has received funds from the USAID Mission in Ethiopia under the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to assist the Mission in supporting the national scale up of ART activities and to meet health commodity needs in support of the expansion of HIV/AIDS programs. As such, RPM Plus is required to report on a standardized set of program monitoring indicators to assist the Mission in tracking progress towards the Emergency Plan goals. Likewise, RPM Plus has developed a strategic monitoring system for the overall project that facilitates standardized reporting and information sharing known as the Strategic Monitoring System (SMS). This system manages the large amount of information required to monitor the implementation of RPM Plus project activities and to track progress against targets. A web-based version was recently launched and replaces the older MS Access SMS database.

In order to consolidate these monitoring and reporting requirements, RPM Plus has been developing a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan (MERP) specific to each of the countries in which RPM is working under PEPFAR. These plans are meant to provide guidance on the information required to monitor project progress, to assure data quality and the reporting of this information.

Purpose of Trip

Beth Yeager (MSH/RPM Plus) traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from July 18 to July 25, 2006 to assist in the development of a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan for the Ethiopia program and to update staff on M&E activities.

Scope of Work

- Brief/debrief USAID upon request;
- Assist in the development of a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan (MERP) for the RPM Plus Ethiopia program;
- Familiarize the staff in Ethiopia on M&E issues to ensure timely and accurate reporting, data quality compliance and documentation of activities and products for RPM Plus quarterly reports.

ACTIVITIES

1. Development of Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan (MERP) for RPM Plus Ethiopia program

Beth Yeager worked with RPM Plus Ethiopia staff to develop the MERP for activities under COP 06. The key pieces of this document, namely the Results Chain and the Implementation Plan, were developed with Negussu Mekonnen and Hailu Tadege. The Results Chain and Implementation Plan were mainly based on the RPM Plus workplan for FY06 and the COP activity plans presented to the Mission for COP 06 and 07. The output indicators presented in the implementation plan include PEPFAR program-level indicators, additional indicators RPM Plus Ethiopia had agreed with the USAID Mission to report on and RPM Plus ART medicines and supplies management indicators.

By the end of the visit, a draft MERP including draft results chain and implementation plan were developed. This draft will be reviewed by RPM Plus Ethiopia staff and output indicators will be finalized. B. Yeager will then work with Hailu Tadege to finalize the indicator sheets.

Once the MERP is finalized, RPM Plus Ethiopia will share it with USAID Ethiopia.

2. Discussion of M&E issues with staff

B. Yeager discussed implementation of the monitoring plan with Hailu Tadege. Once the indicator sheets are developed, he will instruct other RPM Plus staff on how to fill them out and what supporting documents should be filed with them.

B. Yeager also discussed the incorporation of the information collected in the reports produced by Berhan Teklehaimanot, RPM Plus Communications Associate.

NEXT STEPS

- RPM Plus Ethiopia will work with B. Yeager to finalize a MERP draft
- Once finalized, RPM Plus will share MERP with USAID Ethiopia and proceed to implement the plan

